

Submitter: Kelly Waltos
On Behalf Of: myself and my family
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB301

March 24, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Kelly Waltos and I live on the portion of the Willamette river included in the "Newberg Pool". I strongly support Senate Bill 301. It seems very unfair that even though I don't use my ballast and am under the weight limit (without ballast) I cannot tow. That means I cannot tow a tube, I cannot tow a waterskier - rendering my boat useless. I love my boat. I do not want to sell it. It has emotional value to me and it is under the weight limit without counting the ballast that I never use!

I have lived here since 2015; before and after this punitive legislation. Many of us bought our boats with no warning that this highly restrictive, overreaching legislation was coming.

Rest assured that even with new legislation, SB 301, the Newberg Pool will still be highly regulated, still requiring an online course to secure a towing permit. This course makes boating in the Newberg Pool and the Willamette in general much safer for everyone. I'm happy to pay the fees and meet a weight requirement that is fair and not counting weight that is in theory only and not actually there!

In addition, this small legislative adjustment would make it easier for the OSMB to manage the towed water sports program and for boaters to easily understand which boats qualify.

Thank you for considering this small tweak that will help so many.

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